Ross Dowson archives --- correspondence – Year 1983

01_07	Letter to Peter W., re his book not yet available, LSA has sold its archives to Ontario Government Archives
01_16	Letter to Denis (M.), Montreal, re: enquiring about Mouvement socialiste and anti-cruise groups in that city
01_21	Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: sending her books and documents; her land purchase at the Camp; the Left Caucus in Ottawa
02_03	+Registered letter to R. Sims (LSA), Montreal: what is problem with our payment for 4 lots, with shareholder agreement, now rejected by LSA? We have paid all bills, new bills due soon which we are all obligated to if no sale agreement arrived at
02_15	Letter to Harry Kopyto, re: questions on progress on Supreme Court case; demand access to RCMP files
02_16	Letter to the Editor, (Toronto) *Globe & Mail,* re: phoney ``reasons of national security'' behind Solicitor-General`s refusal to turn over files on 800,000 Canadians
02_16B	+Letter to Anne D., Ottawa: enclosing the Agreement and a map from TSS&ES for your purposes
02_22	Letter to Lynn MacDonald, re: enclosing two pamphlets of one non-sectarian Marxist tendency to add to the panel on the NDP
02_22B	Note, ‘'Postscript to letter to Law Union,'' re: need to support Morgentaler`s frontal challenge the stay of proceedings
03_00	Dated Mar.-April: ***Document: ‘'Where should the Left go now? An Open Letter from the Editors of*** Forward, addressed to the Marx Centenary Conference in Winnipeg in March
03_04	Dated Mar/Apr., ***Document of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund: ‘'Ottawa exonerates RCMP, Dowson suit only opposition;"*** (by Paul Kane), CCLA protests this cynical breach of justice in Ontario A-G`s refusal to charge RCMP officers for admitted crimes
03_05	Letter to “In These Times” (USA) Friends: apparently asking to have the Polish Solidarnosc *Globe* ad with important Canadian support published in their journal
03_26	+Letter to Shareholders in Camp Poundmaker: New and old shareholders need to

find buyers for remaining 3 TSS/ES lots; loan needed to pay current expenses

03_99 March ***Document: ''Draft Manifesto for the NDP, submitted by the Ontario Left Caucus;"*** The World Economic Crisis; Social Ownership: the only solution;, Economic Democracy, Women`s Rights, the Crisis of Federation; an NDP Government in Power

04_20 Letter to *The Forge*, Montreal, re: exchange of paper with literature from English Canada including a ''Draft Manifesto of the NDP Left Caucus''

04_27 Letter to Robin H., Edmonton, r e: the Left Caucus counter-manifesto

06_02 Letter to Jesse V., Winnipeg, re: RCMPers blocked from testifying at the SRDF Small Claims Court hearing by Ontario A-G lawyers

07_13 ***SRDF flyer, reprint from Sask. NDP*** Commonwealth***: ''Join the protest against Ottawa`s Bill C-157 plot!*** Security service bill will legalize repression;'' by legalizing illicit RCMP activities within a new organization, CSIS

07_14 Letter to Mary S., Acton ON, re: missed issues of *Forward*

08_08 Letter to Roy P. re RD's busy summer schedule

09_25 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: the Left Caucus in Ottawa and Toronto; the City-TV production (''RCMP on Trial'')

09_29 Letter to the Editors of *NOW,* ''All out to world-wide protests'' against nuclear arms next month

10_05 Letter to Classic Books, Rexdale, re: circulation of SRDF book ''Dowson vs the RCMP;'' next to City-TV docudrama

10_12 Note to members of the Left Caucus, ''The power of positive thinking'' by RD, St. George-Rosedale (NDP) on the atmosphere of defeat within the party and the danger of a loss of morale

10_25 ***Document: ''An appeal;"*** for funds to continue the fight of SRDF which has just received a high court ruling that it may proceed against RCMP

10_31 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: SRDF riding wave of publicity; great care needed in heating the camp lodge in fall and winter

10_31B Letter to W.J. Walsh of Tyendinaga Cty, re payment of Poundmaker property taxes

11_29 Letter to Stephen Dankowich, Valencia, Spain, re: regrets we are limited in ability

to mount a defence of the Polish Solidarnosc militants; how the courts are blocking the SRDF campaign

11_29B Letter to Dick P., Vancouver, re: RD retired and working full-time for the movement; collapse of RWL and their dumping Trotskyism; the Left in turmoil; Harry blocked in Small Claims Court case against the RCMP

12_00 (*Undated letter), in 1983*, to Sam G., Niagara Falls, re: sudden arrival of the journal of the Fourth International; *International Viewpoint* address

Ross Dowson
40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Jan, 7, 1983

Peter Weinrich
136 Aylmer Ave.,
Ottawa, Ont. K1S 2Y2

Dear Peter:

I had intended that you would have been in receipt of a reply from me to your May letter long ago. I have been exepcting a visit from Danny Moore off and on over recent months --I even have a telephone answrring device in case I might be out of&when he attempted to contact me,but he left no trace. I must admit that sometimes I find that I neglected to activiate it. At anyrate I have not received the copy of your book that you so generously offered.

But your unanswered letter continued to confront me, so the other day,when at the Metro library, I went to the stacks to look at their copy of your book. I was startled to find that it was not there and enquired about it. The librarian finally pulled out a purachase order. They ordered their copy from a notice that appeared in Qill & Quire March 1982. They ordered it in September 2---that it has not arrived even yet struck her as unfortunate but not unusual.

So there you have it. The book is out in May but the major library in Canada's metropolis has not yet received their copy. While your stone has been flung the ripples have not yet reached us yet...and so I am not in a position to say anything about the book.

If Danny Moore is still lugging this volume around I would appreicate it if you would recover the copy and mail it to me. By next post I will send you funds to cover the postage costs that appear on the wrapping.

I see my former confrere's in the League for Socialist Action have sold the archives to the Ontario Government Archives here in Toronto. I dropped in today to see the display in their foyer--but didn't have time to go in and see what they have-which I intend to do shortly. With regards to my own collection here, my first thoughts have been to send you the items that you list from it, to fill out the Ottawa Public Archives.

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

January 16, 1983

Denis Masson # 8
2229 Edouard Monpetit
Montreal, Que H3T 1J3

7.

Dear Denis;

Thanks for your ~~kind~~ invitation to take advantage of your facilities there in Montreal. I haven't been there for some while now although I "lived" there for about 5 months once. I am sure that it is much more pleasant for an ~~Anglophone~~ Anglophone now--now that Francophones have firmly established themselves and on longer feel ~~so~~ so alienated as before. And thanks for the note on water. I have seen this metamorphous observed by all of us from early childhood,most often used to demonstrate the trnasformation from quantity to quality--from solid-ice, to liquid-water, to gas-steam...the dialectic.

It is good to see that you are settling in. As soon as you can put some time aside I would think that you would find it interesting to contact the Mouvemont Socialiste at 3446 St-Denis, bureau102 there in Montreal--the Committee of One Hundred. They must surely be planning something at long last. So far,from what we have not heard from that quarter,you would think that we are living in a period of social calm instead of profound instability. Since some of them have had deep and longstanding trade union connections you would think that they would be trying to take advantage of the current PQ's stance to lay firm and braod foundations for a mass labor-socialist party. I am quite anxious to hear about anything you can learn about activities in that milie

And then too there is the developing anti-nuclear arms movement which must be buffeting that circle-and which exists on its own grounds. The anti-Cruise missile groups are now holding meetings at key strategic points across the city right now. This spring and summer is certain to witness the most massive actions yet seeh in Europe. Have you happened to come across any scientists who are associating themsemves with the anti-nuclear amrs movement. There is a group here on the Toronto campuses. One of their leading spokespersons made an excellent contribution to the meeting that the NDP anti-war committee organized. I cant recall the name of the Toronto academics' committee which no doubt has a network of connections across the country. I would think you could locate someone associated with them in the Montreal area---I dont recall which university you are connected with now.

I am enclosing a copy of a pamphlet which I have a duplicate of and which you ,ight like to ad to your library--and a clipping from the Toronto Star and the science page that appears every Friday in the Globe and Mail If I had the time and the scientific knoweldge I would like to read the David Bohm book

(end)

Jan 21, 1983
40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Ottawa
Dear Anne

The time has come for you to send me the English language version of Daniel Guerin's The Class Struggle under the First Republic- the bourgeois and the bare-armed 1793-1797. I see Wadja's film on the French Revolution(Danton) is out. There is a report on the first responsesat its Paris showing. I will be glad to pay the mailing costs.

Today I sent you some bulletins covering the discussion on Canadian nationalism as it developed in the USA. I am cleaning out our new office of duplicates and jmkk jun---those are duplicates and may be of interest to you - you are welcome to them. I scanned a couple of them and thought that my contributions were generally quite good. I think that their style gives you sufficient idea of the context. Democracy and Socialism by Novak has an interesting part on the dual character of nationalism. I hope you are looking after my Third International After kmkmm Lenin. I gather you wanted to read the material on China. While you have it you should take time to read the major content--on socialism in one country--peak among Trotsky's writings

I take it that you have sent Murray the basic amount that you agreed to. He phoned Lois to tell herx that he had not received it several weeks back . I think that you should also send him the $1,000 for the two acres on which the cabin stands. If you could get it from Walter-your mother etc that would be very nice--but probably you cannot. I spoke to Lois about this and I am sure that she would be prepared to loan it to you so we can clear this matter up--it determines who are the shareholders in Poundmaker Incorporated --it determines who votes on decision. We want to make some decisions shortly as to who among the new shareholders gets what lots and what we will do with the acerage which was always part of the lodge. have always expressed the opinion that we should break up and sell a couple of lots thtere is order to raise a bit of capital and ease the pressure off us that paying the insurance and hydro, heretofore paid by the RWL. We will have many little details to decide and we want to get off in good style with the new owners of which we could very well do with 2 or three more.

It appears that the Left Caucus has received the draft of the New Manifesto. The Ottawa office told me that they would send me a copy right after the New Year but it hasn't arrive. According to Rxxdx Gord,Fred (CarletonU's first impression was that it ias left however Gord says by no means. Tonight I am going to help mail thxkx a noticesfor the meeting that has been called to opun up the discussion so I will probably get a copy. Of course it would be good if the Left Caucus could present a common counter document. Yesterday Zane and I drew up what I think is a good appeal for Silidairty with the Polish emprisoned--he has passed it around-we hope to get it adopted this next week so the project can get underway

Are Ottawa lefts going to the Winnipeg Dimension project and

couple of lines missing - RD

"Couple of lines missing - RD"

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2
Feb 3 1983

Robert Sims- TSS& ES
Montreal

Dear Robert Sims:

I am suprised that you have not replied to my letter of December 22. It was a response to yoursof Dec 13, 1982 (estimated). which in my opinion posed a series of new problems and for reasons that are not clear to me.

On behalf of the TSS&ES you offered to sell four units. You suggested that other shareholders were prepared in all probability to sell theirs on the same terms. In a previous noteyou mentioned that Brian Dubig had turned his share over to Joan Newbigging and that there was a personal understanding of her part that she was holding that share in trust for the TSS&ES. John Riddell informed me directly that he was prepared to sell his share. He added a personal comment:"I would not want the problem of raising $1,000 to buy back my lot to stand in the way of a settlement with the TSS&S. I would think it better that the question of my lot remain secondary, and that it be purchased by the camp when it reaches an agreement with the TSS&S, or at some time after such an agreement (Sept 18, 1982)" Upon a personal enquiry I learned from Bea that George Bryant is also prepared to sell his share.

I informed the shareholders of this situation and immediately a process went underway of selling shares to persons who we knew were compatible. Last December I sent you the sum of $4,000 that these persons turned over to me on the basis that I was authorized to sell them a two acre lot on the Poundmaker property. It seemed logical to me that the money for four shares should be forwarded to the TSS&ES for the four shares held in its name,at the same time as I gave the word of the current shareholdersthat we would continue to sell shares and hopefully would complete the process by the spring. We could have even easier sent $3,000 to the three individual shareholders.

But much to my suprise your December 13 letter does not accept the $4,000 as payment of the shares that you offered to sell.

You write on December 13 that "we wanted the share transfer to all be accomplished at the same time." And on the basis of that desire you have decided unilaterally to hold the money that I have forwarded to you on behalf of others in what you claim to be "in trust" --in reality in your hands and your hands alone, until such time as I am able to sell the other three shares.

You have refused to complete whatever we may decide to be formally and legally proper to recognize the transfer of TSS&S shares to persons who have advanced in good faith the asked-for amount of money --until this new condition is met. This is all the more suprising in light of your knowledge that the corporation has no funds of its own and has no way of raising any except through actually selling the shares that have been put forward by you for me to sell on your behalf.

As you possibly know it is normal in such a matter as we are involved in, that upon the sale of a property, the previous owners affirm that it is free of all encumbrances. In my letter of Dec 22 I informed you that since previous correspondence I had had to advance $215 for insurance on the lodge and another $73.75 for hydro which it is apparent is quite unreasonable to impose on the new owners who are in no way responsible. You have not seen fit to comment on this. Furthermore as you will note from the above date we are going into the second month of the new tax year. I did not draw the logic of this information to your attention as I did not want such a matter which is usually worked out to the mutual satisfaction of all parties at the actual date of sale, to stand in the way of our reaching an amicable settlement. With this new stricture that you have imposed, this new condition, when do you think the sale will actually be completed? When do you think you will be free of your obligations?

I should also bring to your attention that your holding the funds and not completing the sale not only jeopardizes my relations with the persons who took my word that I was authorized to sell them a share and to accept their money. It also undermines our ability to sell the shares of three other persons, for I cannot in good conscience sell any other share since according to the condition that you have imposed every last cent has to be raised before any sale is recognized by the TSS&ES- even though it wishes, it says, to sell its own shares. In my opinion this is an impossible stricture you have imposed on what is in reality a simple transaction once you have really decided that you really do want to sell.

In frustration I replied on December 22 to your December 13 letter that "it is entirely up to you to do as you wish with the $4,000 I forwarded to you for the TSS&ES shares." I uttered this in frustration and because up until now people have accepted my word about Poundmaker affiars--but now, in all seriousness! You must complete the sale on the terms that were understood, or you must return the $4,000--as I must complete a sale with the persons who trusted my word and entrusted their funds with me, or return their funds to them, which would be extremely difficult for me to do, from my own resources.

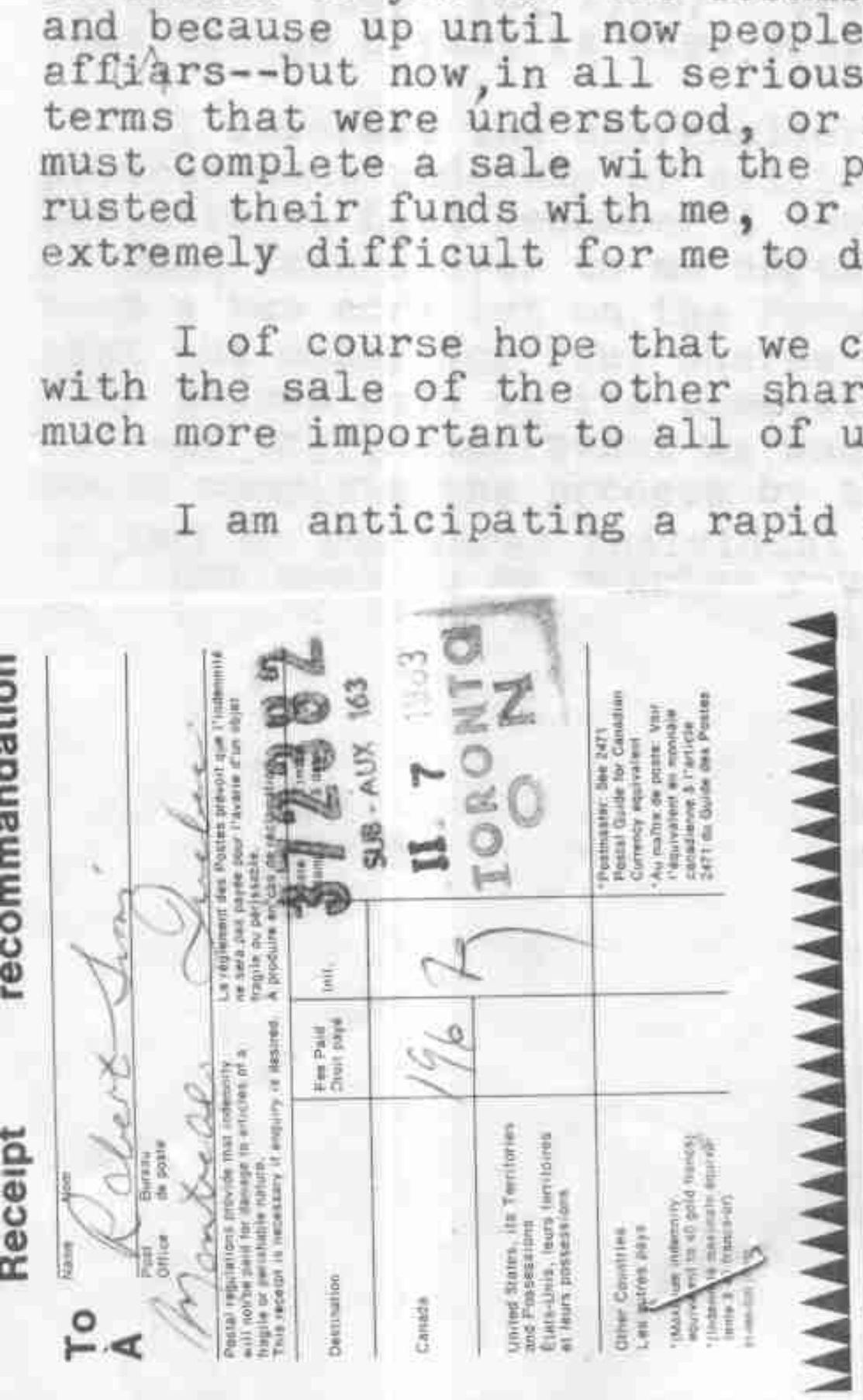
I of course hope that we can complete the sale --and then get on with the sale of the other shares--and then get on with matters that are much more important to all of us.

I am anticipating a rapid reply

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson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Robert Sarazen Quebec
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Bureau de poste
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Postal regulations provide that indemnity will not be paid for damage to articles of a fragile or perishable nature.
This receipt is necessary if enquiry is desired.
Le règlement des Postes prévoit que l'indemnité ne sera pas payée pour l'avarie d'un objet fragile ou périssable.
À produire en cas de réclamation
Destination
Fee Paid
Droit payé
Init.
SUB - AUX 163
Canada
TORONTO
ONT
Postmaster: See 2471 Postal Guide for Canadian Currency equivalent
Au maître de poste: Voir l'équivalent en monnaie canadienne à l'article 2471 du Guide des Postes

Feb 15, 1983
Ross Dowson,
Toronto

Dear Harry K (copyto)

Somewhile back Kaplan said that he would turn over those portions that had not been released for publication in the McDonald report. The provinces would get them once his offices had been assured in writ that there would be no provincial suits launched against the RCMP. McMurty has assured Kaplan of this through the madia but apparently not in writing. I do not know what is involved in this jousting and whether our suit now going to the Supreme Count is involved. At anyrate up until recently McMurtry has said that he has not received the information and tossed the ball back in Kaplan's court. You wrote McMurtry but it would seem that you should have written Kaplan. If we are going to supeona anyone for this information don't we have to supona Kaplan? What is Kaplan's argument behind his refusal to turn this matter over to the provinces if there are provincial suits. Couldn't McMurtry supeoona Kaplan for the material? And do we have power of suponeona of Kaplan?

Where does the UN appeal stand. I need this information for this issue of the paper. Their answer was ludicrous I think we should repor this in the paper and what we have done about it---where it stands.

We have played around several times about the RCMP's 800,000 files. I think that we should demand that far from being destroyed--- which is actually impossible as material from the files has no doubt been Xeroxed dozens of time and sent around to various levels of the RCMP and has no doubt filtered down into such offshoots as the ethnic lists etc, we should demand that they be turned over to the indiduals with whom they deal. I think that we should even make a stink about t since there are supposed freedoms of access to files on various matter I think that we should discuss this with Copeland and others. Of cours I could demand my files but why wouldn't we try to start widespread de mand for them--portions of Paul's appeared in the McDonald report--- why not all--why not everyone

Ross

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

February 16, 1983

Editor-Globe and Mail

Sir:

So Solicitor-General Kaplan has once again dragged out that hoary rubric "reasons of national security" to justify his offices' refusal to disclose or declassify the files that the RCMP built up on 800,000 Canadians

It was on these very grounds that the RCMP justified building up the files in the first place,although their subsequent testimony before the McDonald Commission gave the lie to any claim that the security of Canada was in anyway involved.

RCMP Director John Starnes, who should know, testified that the infamous Checkmate Operations came into play against persons and organisations ~~which were~~ ~~for want of a better word~~ word
isations which were "for want of a better word 'subversive'", and defined this further as organizations or individuals "at cross purposes with the maintenance of domestic stability."

Even if we could take officials from the justice and solicitor-generals offices at their word as to the screening of these files we can have no confidence that there would or even could be a real clean-up. We live in the age of Xerex. The material in these files has been used on innumerable occasions. Recall the recent disclosure of the ethnic organizations guidance list.

A practical way to clean up this stench would be to send to each and everyone of the 800,000 persons the file that deals with them-so that they can take any action he or she deems appropriate.

I want my file

sincerely

Ross Dowson

February 16, 1983
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y2K2
9614554

Anne D_____, Ottawa

Dear Anne:

I am enclosing two items with regards to the Camp Poundmaker property of interest to you.

First the agreement. This is the agreement governing the Corporation which is registered with the government. It was drawn up after many evenings of debate and discussions between myself, Darrel Furlotte and a friend of ours who is a capable lawyer by name Alan Goldstein. From all our experience since then it is a very good document and has covered every problem. It is based on an agreement that I drew up when we first set up the camp which also proved to be excellent--but this since it is drawn up by an experienced lawyer, is of course superior and would stand up in law if anyone of us shaould seek recourse.

You can dismiss Murray's tendency to belittle it because this tendency flows from the setting up of the corporation itself which gives no shareholder title to the lot which Murray wants-- the title to the land was in my name and section two transfers it to the corporation.

This is the key document and you should keep it in your papers. Of course there is a need to update it--mainly insofar as it concerns the shareholders. We will do that up proper once we settle things with the TSS&ES and Bryant, Newbigging and Riddell.

There is a map of the property but it is off size and I didn't Xerox a copy for you. But the lot upon which Murray had his cabin erected is numbered Lot 6

2nd I am enclosing a Xerox copy of a sheet that someone in the TSS&ES had drawn up in what appears to me to be a good legal form. This was never submitted to the books of the corporation--I never saw it until a couple of months ago although it originally appears to have been drwn up in April 1977. They did it in order to formalize a Brian Duhig turning his share over to Jan Newbigging --in reality to the TSS&ES.
I think you should take this as a guide and type up a proper one--make two copies and get Murray to sign them. No, you had better make three copies --one to go to the corporation--one to Murray and one to you.

Type it up nice, fill in the proper information--as you will notes from my scribble the cabin is on lot 6 -and send it all three of w to Murray for his signature and his return of two of the copies for the Camp Poundmaker files --and you can get rid of my scribble.

-30-

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto , M4Y2K2
961-4554
Feb 22, 1983

Dear Lynn MacDonald

It was with considerable interest that I noticed that you are appearing on a panel at the Marx Centenary Conference and that the panel is composed basically of persons who while considering themselves Marxists do not have a correct position on the NDP ~~which~~

The panel that follows has as respondents:
The Workers Communist Party which I understand recently closed up shop and had long ultra-leftist position on the NDP,
The Revolutionary Workers League which has a sectarian position on the NDP,
The Communist Party which also has a sectarian position and actually counterposes itself to the NDP.

As an NDPer and as a longstanding Marxist I am taking the liberty of sending two pamphlets to you in the hope that you may find them useful. The Socialist Vanguard and the NDP was written by me when I was executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action--this was the central document that was dumped by the persons who now are in the leadership of the Revolutionary Workers League. The other is a popular selection from the writings of Marx and Engels by myself --showing that Marx and Engelswere generally quite free from sectarianis

Possibly you havent yet had time to read E?P. Thompson's study of William Morris--also useful--as I hope these may be

sincerely

Ross Dowson

I see the panel you are on is entitled The Limitations of Social Democracy. This is not a very useful word now that it has been adopted by the renegades from the British Labour Party. Furthermore it is not descritive of the NDP--in all my years in the CCF and NDP milieu I met few who could really be called theorteically convinced Social Democrats--David Lewis, George Grube, ~~[illegible]~~
The most useful disctinction in my opinion is reformists vs socialist or the plane of theory Marxists

(handwritten letter)
(Letter to Law Union not available)

Postscript to letter to Law Union Feb. 22/83

A small point – I do not see why Fidler puts the onus of a decision on Penner as Attorney-General of Manitoba. To do so only diverts a civil rights issue from the public arena where it now actually is, into the courts of law which finally are completely in control of the Establishment.

Anyone could challenge a stay by Penner as Copeland & Kopyto with the support of the CCLA are trying to do in the Dowson & Praxis case. The position of the NDP is clear in this matter and this criticism appears to me to be a cheap shot. Where the law stands is also clear and one can only support Morgentaler in his decision to challenge it frontally.

In general a stay of proceedings appears to me to be a violation of elementary democratic rights so I wonder why Fidler would suggest that Penner venture out into this (to say the least) questionable area

(end)

Ottawa exonerates RCMP Dowson suit only opposition

by Paul Kane

Not one RCMP officer has been charged or ever will be charged, let alone prosecuted, as far as the federal justice minister and solicitor-general, and every provincial attorney's general office across Canada, is concerned, other than Quebec's. Even though the Quebec government has laid 50 charges against 17 mounties there has not yet been even one conviction, and Lévesque appears to be backing off.

This cynical decision by the country's political and legal establishment has been denounced as "outrageous" by the general counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. "This is one of the most blatant outrages perpetrated on the public in years," declared Alan Borovoy who led a five-person delegation on January 25 protesting that failure to prosecute RCMP officers creates "a double standard" in law and undermines the very concept of "the public's respect for the rule of law." Borovoy told the press that Justice Minister MacGuigan showed absolute refusal to alter that decision. The meeting went "badly," he said.

This decision leaves as the only legal action against the RCMP, aside from those in Quebec, two suits initiated by Toronto socialist Ross Dowson. One of his suits, together with another by Howard Buchbinder, comes before the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa early this spring. The other is Dowson's suit, slated to go before the Toronto Small Claims Court on May 24.

This incredibly cynical decision to close the books on the flood of revelations of RCMP violations of the law and the most basic civil rights of the Canadian people, which commenced to rock the country in March 1976, was taken behind the backs of the people — in secret — sometime befor July 20 of last year.

The flood of revelations, in its inexorable course, exposed that the RCMP since the '50s has routinely opened first class mail in blatant contravention of the Postal Act, violated the security of Health records, misused confidential tax and employment information, and in the implementation of the infamous "though control" Operation Checkmate alone, conspired to violate rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights, committed fraud, private and public mischief, communicated false messages, criminal slander, attempted assault, threatening bodily harm, etc., etc. In its report, the McDonald Commission Inquiry, which cost the taxpayers over $8 million, further revealed that the RCMP had amassed Security Service dossiers on more than 800,000 individuals. In its brief to the commission, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (CLC) protested that the entire trade union movement has been implicitly branded as subversive.

It was NDP justice critic Svend Robinson, at a late November session of the Commons Committee, in a repeat inquiry as to whether there would be no prosecution under any federal statute, who elicited the casual admission from Solicitor-General MacGuigan that there will be absolutely no federal prosecutions. MacGuigan released a letter dated July 20 by his predecessor, now Energy Minister Jean Chretien, affirming this.

Robinson asked Kaplan to publish previously suppressed portions of the McDonald report that were forwarded to Alberta, B.C. and Ontario which he has refused to do until he receives written confirmation from Ontario's Attorney-General McMurtry that no charges are pending—an assurance that McMurtry has made publicly for some time now. McMurtry's refusal to lay charges and his blocking Dowson's attempt to do so, are the subject of Dowson's appeal to the Supreme Court where he has the support of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Robinson, commenting on the government's action, stated: "It is definitely a fear of the Liberal government that if there were trials, that inevitably the finger would point higher. That has to be the justification for not prosecuting." He was echoed in this by Tory justice critic Ray Hnatyshyn.

→ p. 2

Your help needed

by Harry Paine

Right from the very beginning, now some five years ago, in the early spring of 1978, M.P. Svend Robinson, then NDP justice critic, gave a powerful boost to the Socialist Rights Defense Fund. Now Lynn McDonald, prior to her even being elected the member from Broadview, and now the new NDP justice critic, added her signature in support of the SRDF statement of purpose. She enclosed $50 for the Fund to help pay the costs of the suit initiated by Ross Dowson to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in the face of charges of subversion by the federal RCMP.

While the suit has been strung out five years, and dropped by the mass media on the phoney allegation that it has no news interest, and mailing costs have gravely restricted our own publicity, support continues to come in from across the country.

Recently $50 arrived from R.H. Prinsep of Vancouver with a note addressed "to whom it may concern," which read in part:

"I am sure that because of some of my own activities the reason I do not have my occupation with the civil service today is because of pressure which probably involved the RCMP. (When you know that 800,000 Canadians are on file with the RCMP intelligence and its so-called 'civilian' successor—how can you think otherwise?) Let us hope the international courts show more courage than their Canadian counterparts. Civil rights in Canada in the future will much depend on the final outcome of this suit."

That inveterate fighter for Prisoners' Rights, Claire Culhane, sent in a hard-to-come-by contribution along with a note telling us that her charge of common assault against a penitentiary guard, who prodded her with a rifle off penitentiary grounds, has been dismissed. She is now "head-(ed) in for their charge against me of 'unlawful trespass, etc." She writes to us — imagine! to us! — "Bon courage! and don't stop!"

Coming off the West Coast we have heard from Sven Sandberg of Edmonton, Dan Laxdal and Anna Danard of Swan River who have been responding generously regularly, J. & A. Vorst in Winnipeg, Phil Brown in Sudbury and dozens of persons in Southern East and West Ontario, and Bill Roberts in Westmount, along with a welcome contribution of $50 made in the name of La Ligue des Droits et Libertés.

These funds along with a loan of several hundreds of dollars have enabled us to meet various expenditures including running expenses, our lawyers' basic legal expenses, printing, etc., etc. But this still leaves an accumulation of costs levied against us by the various levels of the courts, now totalling over $4,000. (The defendant in the suits, designated as "The Queen," employs the highest paid lawyers: including J.J. Robinette, Pierre Genest, and now in the Toronto Small Claims Court, the son of Supreme Court Justice Laskin.)

This summer Dowson was questioned under oath by a Special Examiner for the Supreme Court as to the value of the goods and chattels that he has accumulated in the course of almost fifty years' activities in the labor and socialist movement.

Dowson assured the examiner that he recognized the debt, and has always had every intention of paying it, with the judgement he hopes to win in his suit against the RCMP in Toronto's Small Claims Court. We need help now as we come down the final lap of these suits that have become central in this historic struggle for justice. Send your contribution to **SRDF, 50 Thorncliffe Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1V5.**

Socialist Rights Defence Fund

Harry Paine, treasurer
(president of St. David's NDP)
Christine Judge, administrative secretary
50 Thorncliffe Ave
Toronto Ontario M4K 1V5

—from the Mar/Apr. 1983 tear sheet

Ross Dowson, #2311
~~Toronto~~
40 Homewood Ave, Toronto
M4Y 2K2

March 5, 1983

In These Times (USA)

Dear Friends

I am enclosing a copy of an ad that the Solidarity Support Committee of Toronto managed to rally sufficient support(financial) behind to have published in today's national edition of the Globe and Mail--comparable to the NYT

I think that you will agree that the statement that supporters endorsed is a strong one and the action that our committee contemplates should the trials go on~~e~~,as is almost certain,is also a good one. We are hoping that our initiatory action will be emulated by others elsewhere ---particularly in Ronald Reagan's U S A

We would very much appreciate it if you are able to reproduce it in whole or in part - or if you would consider writing up a report on it.

t

I do not know if anyone on your staff is acquained with the Canadian Left. The initiating sponsors are all important public figures. Atwood Berton and Callwood top writers, Copeland, Ruby and Kopyto leading civil rights lawyers- Persky has written two books on Poland--the latest and invaulable source book on the development and ideology of Solidartiy Frye, the most eminent literary critic and so on... and of course this country's leading union personalities.

The supporting list includes nearly all the top officers of the various provincial sections of ~~th~~ our labor party formation, the New De[illegible]rty The top brass on the Canadian Polish Congress a cold war line were compelled to ~~s~~appear to be face badly-Jan Kaszuba is the national president will note my name on the eighh line.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

oronto, Ont. M4Y2K2
March 26, 1983

Shareholders in Camp Poundmaker

Dear friends;

While the snowfall of March 21 told us that winter still has us in its grip, spring is no douht on the way and we will soon be able to get into Poundmaker to prepare for the season of 1983

Anne Dowson has as anticipated bought up Murray Dowson's share and her family promise to ad some new life to the camp. The Kopyto's, the Tomczac's the Doctorow's and John Darling have become shareholders. Unfortunately the Burrill's and Glenn's who we had anticipated would take up lots have decided that they are unable to do so. So we still have the Newbigging, Bryant and Riddell lots to sell. We had assured these latter shareholders that a serious effort would be made to sell their lots . It would be very good if we all think about other acquaintances who might consider buying a lot, who would prove compatible, and if we are all agreed that we complete the deal in order to clear up these three lots that have been offered for sale.

Final settlement with the TSS&ES with regards to last year's hydo bill and insurance premium on the lodge, totalling $288.75,has not yet been reached however we have received $180.83 which they estimate covers one quarter of that plus funds for some 1983 taxes not only for what the TSS&ES might owe but what might be owing by Newbigging,Riddell & Bryant on their lots. Robert Sims writing on behalf of the TSS&ES suggests that some of the present Poundmaker shareholders might consider advancing a short term loan to the Corporation so that it could buy out the other three shareholders pending the sale of their lots.

Lois Bedard and myself managed to get down to the camp before the snowfall and at that time everything was pretty well cleared up, promising an early spring runoff. While there we introduced ourselves to the new addition to the Ron and Liz Hugh family down the road.

Let us hear any suggestions you might have about lot buyers. Take notes on any ideas you might have with regards to Poundmaker operations. We will be calling a meeting very shortly. We might consider holding it at the camp on May 1st(Sunday) should it warm up sufficiently

sincerely,

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2K2

April 20/83

The Forge
C.P. 364
Station Place d'Armes
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Comrades;

I received your April 1983 issue in the mail this morning with thanks.

I am enclosing several items which I think will be of interest to you in the process of rethinking about your experiences as Marxists.

1- a statement by the editors of Forward which was circulated at the Marx Centennial held in Winnipeg over March 12@15

2- a copy of a leaflet put out by the Solidarity Support Committe of Toronto attempting to rally support in opposition to the Stalin-type show-trial now in preparation in Poland--see both sides)

3- a paper put out by an Anti-war committee recently activiated in t greater Toronto area attempting to mobilize opposition to the Cruise Missile tests that Ottawa has now committed Canada to as a component of the NATO-NORAD military alliance

4- copy of the Draft Manifesto that the Ontario NDP Left Caucus has prepared in opposition to the NDP leaderships draft that will be coming up before all NDP constituency associations preparatory to the federal convention in Regina this summer.

I am sending these to you entirely on my own initiative. Of course they are in the public domain for comment

with socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2K2

April 27, 1983

Robin Hunter
10435 - 86 Ave
Edmonton, Alta T6E 2M4

Dear Robin:

It is laughable to think how I misunderstood about the Manifesto that Mardiros was said to have. Imagine my suprise when I read the copy and found it to be the leadership's draft which I had already read, and with others in the Left Caucus concluded that we must take on.

Several copies of the enclosed counter manifesto have been sent out that way but I am not aware of any reply. Of course there are some prob lems with it but itsxxx thrust is clear and should provide a focus for a left differentiation. Hope you can put it to use--other copies can be obtained from the address on the back. Havent located the Cuba tour pamphlet. I will write you at length later. It was good to meet you at Winnipeg.

revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2k2

June 2,1983

Jesse Vorst
471 University College
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Man R3T 2M8

Dear Ms Vorst:

over

Anne Dowson has only just turned the letter that you wrote to her in Ottawa to me here in Toronto. It must have been msiplaced in the process of her packing up and moving here for the summer.

I take it for granted that we must have missed any mailing that you were contemplating doing for the 1983 Learned Societies Conference. This letter will only get to younupon your return fromtthe Conference which I see took place over June 4-6

But the Dowson suits are still live and well. We wnet before the Toonto Small Claims Court on May 24th. RCMPers Chisholm and Yaworski conceded the truth of all our claims but were blocked from ansering our queries when the lawyer representing both the solicitor-general and the attorney-general intervenedwith Ottawa's full authority to block questioning in the interest of national defence. The judge withheld judgement as to whether we could procede. We are now getting ready to go to the Supreme Court on June 9 to challenge Ontario attormey-general Roy McMurtry to lift his stay of proceedings. Paul Copeland will be arguing on both our behalf and on behalf of Praxis Institute.

I think that it would be fine if you were to mail out the CCLA brochure--the trouble is that we dont have anything like the 400 copies you require. But as you have probably noticed

it is just an 8 1/2 by 14 sheet printed on both sides and would be easy to Xerox. Within a week or so I could mail you a tear sheet put out by SRDF which I could send you 400 copies of - I will send you a sample hot off the press. You can let me know your decision upon your receipt of it

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Join the protest against Ottawa's Bill C

Security service bill will legalize repression

By Ross Dowson

If you thought the massive human and civil rights violations of the '60s and '70s — the kidnappings, the wiretappings, the buggings, the forgeries, the break-ins, the thefts, the planting of spies in the capitalist Liberal party, not to mention the trade unions, the NDP and the Native movement — were aberrations, the over-reactions of a few RCMP zealots . . .

If you thought that labelling organizations with the term "subversive" on grounds, according to a top RCMP officer, that they were "at cross purposes with the maintenance of domestic stability," and secret illegalization of Marxism as an ideology — justifying the "thought control" Operation Checkmate — was just an excess . . .

If you thought these things — think again.

All that was thought to be illegal and became the subject of official inquiries . . . all that resulted in the resignations of several solicitors general and even the suicide of a top RCMP officer . . . all this, it turns out, was only lacking in the proper judicial sanction.

With the introduction of C-157, the mandate for a new Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) now before the house of commons, the Liberal government is out to make such actions legal, under the control of more professional administrators.

"Orwellian legislation," declared federal NDP justice critic Svend Robinson when solicitor-general Robert Kaplan placed the bill before the house — all the necessary legislation to legitimize a totalitarian society which George Orwell prophesized in his book *1984*.

NDP members have demanded the government withdraw the bill and replace Kaplan. They have announced they will make every possible effort to "kill Bill C-157."

Even the highly selective, staid body of provincial attorneys general, meeting in Charlottetown, put aside their agenda to condemn the federal government's proposals as a "massive threat to the rights and freedom of all Canadians" and "an assault on democracy."

The CSIS "is given a carte blanche to break any law, completely free from any independent publicly accountable scrutiny or review", says their communique. "The ordinary safeguards of our criminal law have been eliminated."

Even Ontario attorney general Roy McMurtry, who has himself blocked the private prosecution of RCMP officers, vowed he will personally lobby all 95 Ontario MPs against the bill's sweeping powers. It is dangerous legislation, he said, when one looks at the incredibly broad definition of what constitutes a 'threat to national security'.

Other critics have pointed out that New Democrat Stanley Knowles would certainly be conceived as a 'threat to national security' for advocating abolition of the senate — part of "the constitutionally established system of government in Canada."

Bill C-157 has provoked a broad and deep protest from civil libertarians, law professors, the public and the press. In a June 8 editorial, the *Toronto Star* declared the bill is "fatally flawed in its major details." The *Globe and Mail* declared the bill so bad one doesn't know where to attack it first and warns, in a June 4 editorial, that "if Bill C-157 passes there will be no security."

In the face of the massive protests, Kaplan has been pulling back in the direction of proceeding with a Tory proposal to have a commons committee study the actual concept of creating CSIS to replace the discredited RCMP security service — but not the detailed legislation for the proposed agency which led the government to unveil the controversial mandate.

On the one hand, Kaplan is pressing for its passage with the argument that national security is at risk — even though, as *Globe and Mail* writer George Bain has pointed out, RCMP violations of the law "had nothing to do with national security in the accepted sense" but grew out of "the great panic, charade, or both, that was the so-called apprehended insurrection of 1970 in Canada," and "the slop-over" into RCMP thinking of the FBI's Cointelpro.

On the other hand, the government continues to fuel the opposition to its Orwellian mandate, revealing its underlying but clear direction for putting in place, if not into immediate use, the structures of a strong repressive future state.

With justice minister Mark McGuigan's evasive response to NDP MP David Orlikow's queries on whether the RCMP is investigating the peace movement . . . and with Kaplan's revelation that lifetime warrants — placing individuals under indefinite electronic surveillance — already exist . . . opposition to Bill C-157 continues to be grow.

That opposition can yet result in such mass pressure that the Liberals will be compelled to scrap the bill. In 1964, Ontario Tories were compelled to do just that with their repressive police commission legislation.

Dowson is the editor of **Forward**, *a Toronto-based newspaper "for the NDP and Socialism" from which this viewpoint is taken. The supreme court is presently considering his request that he be permitted to lay charges in the Ontario courts against the RCMP following revelations before a provincial royal commission that Mounties forged, uttered and circulated false documents against the now defunct League for Socialist Action.*

SEE OVER

FROM THE

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

the COMMONWEALTH

Volume 43 No. 14 Regina, Sask. Second Class Mail Registration No. 2004 July 13, 1983

Printed by Union Labor

C-157 plot!

Way is cleared for suit against RCMP

GLOBE AND MAIL, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1983

By KIRK MAKIN

A Provincial Court judge has cleared the way for a lawsuit to proceed against a present and a former RCMP officer because the Mounties breached the plaintiff's constitutional right to freedom of assembly and association.

It is the first legal victory for Ross Dowson, a former chairman of the now-defunct League for Socialist Action, since he learned several years ago that the RCMP had attempted surreptitiously to disrupt the internal politics of the league.

Judge Marvin Zuker found that although the small claims suit would normally have been killed by a six-month statute of limitations relating to actions against public servants, the Mounties lost that defence because of the breach of Mr. Dowson's rights.

In rejecting an RCMP motion to have the suit dismissed, Judge Zuker said "there was a duty owed by the defendants to the plaintiffs and there was a breach of that duty. There is a responsibility to protect those who seek to exercise their rights of free action."

The law has changed so that it will no longer "rather suffer a private mischief than a public inconvenience," Judge Zuker said. When a public servant goes beyond the scope of his lawful duties, he "enjoys no greater immunity than any other citizen."

For the purposes of the motion, lawyer John Laskin had admitted the defendants illegally attempted to disrupt the league's functions as part of an Operation Checkmate plan to investigate and, if necessary, act against potentially violent political organizations.

In 1972, the officers circulated among members of the league several letters that railed against the behavior of certain league leaders and purported to be written by other members, in an apparent attempt to foment a leadership debate. League members quickly recognized them as frauds.

Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson's lawyer, said yesterday his client was delighted with the decision. "It's his first victory in six years of litigation against the RCMP, during which he has litigated everywhere from Small Claims Court to the United Nations."

Mr. Kopyto said there is no question of an out-of-court settlement now. "Are you kidding? There is not enough money in the world. If they brought 10 trains full of golden shekels, my client would not settle."

He said Mr. Dowson wants to teach the RCMP that it cannot trample on the rights of citizens. "It would be a tremendous victory for a socialist to be able to go to court in Canada and have the court find in his favor."

Judge Zuker said the suit by Mr. Dowson and the league cannot continue as a class action against RCMP Supt. Stanley Chisholm and former Supt. Ronald Yaworski. Instead, it must be refiled with only Mr. Dowson as plaintiff.

He also rejected the defendants' contention that Mr. Dowson's injurious falsehood suit should really be a libel and slander suit and that it was filed in the wrong court.

Special Offer

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A RECORD OF THE CASE

DOWSON v. RCMP

FORWARD PUBLISHING ASSN
Box 778, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto M5C 2K1

STAR, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Writer can sue Mounties, judge rules

By John Munch Toronto Star

A Toronto writer is to launch a fresh legal suit against two senior Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers accused of masterminding a fake documents campaign to disrupt a radical left-wing political group.

Ross Dowson, former chairman of the now defunct League for Socialist Action, is claiming $3,000 damages in small claims court arising out of Operation Checkmate, a 1972 RCMP campaign intended to discredit and undermine leading members of the league.

Lawyers for retired RCMP assistant commissioner Stanley Chisholm and Superintendent Ronald Yaworski failed this week to block Dowson's civil action. Provincial Court Judge Marvin A. Zuker ruled that Dowson could file a new claim for damages within 20 days.

John I. Laskin, counsel for the two officers, wanted Zuker to throw the case out on the grounds that they were protected by the terms of the Public Authorities Protection Act. This stipulates that damages claims alleging neglect or misbehavior by public servants must be launched within six months of the original misbehavior.

Five fake documents were circulated in the fall of 1972 to a League for Socialist Action meeting at King Edward Public School on Lippincott St. Although Dowson suspected the phony documents were produced by the RCMP, it was only in 1979 at hearings of a royal commission into health records confidentiality that the RCMP admitted its officers concocted the material to undermine the workings of the radical left-wing group.

Chisholm was head of the force's counter-subversive branch between 1969 and 1973 and was in charge of Operation Checkmate. Yaworski was a member of the special operations group that carried out the operation.

In his ruling released publicly yesterday, Zuker said the two officers couldn't be covered by the Public Authorities Protection Act because they failed in their public duty to "protect those who seek to exercise their rights of free action."

But Zuker ruled that Dowson could not claim damages on behalf of other members of the league in a "class-action" style suit. He said Dowson could launch a new suit claiming damages for himself alone.

Dowson has fought a six-year legal battle over the case.

FLASH

The federal justice department swung rapidly into action to block Toronto socialist Ross Dowson from pursuing his injurious falsehood claim against two top RCMP officers who had headed up the infamous "thought control" Operation Checkmate directed against organizations of dissident but completely legitimate opinion.

Its decision to appeal Judge Zuker's ruling before the Supreme Court of Ontario was announced even as Justice Minister MacGuigan released a 20-page apology as to why his government would itself not proceed with a royal commission's recommendations that it act against RCMP officers who violated the law. MacGuigan's statement that it would be too much work roused dozens of Toronto lawyers to offer their services free.

Join the growing list of supporters of the

Socialist Rights Defence Fund

INTERNATIONAL
NOAM CHOMSKY, JESSICA MITFORD, LINUS PAULING, BENJAMIN SPOCK

AMONG CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS: Brampton and District Labour Council; Campbell River, Courtenay & District Labour Council; Kamloops and District Labour Council; Kenora-Keewatin District Labour Council; Metro Toronto Labour Council; Nelson-Trail & District Labour Council; St. John District Labour Council; Vancouver & District Labour Council; Victoria Labour Council; Canadian Union of Public Employees, Niagara District Council; Lumber & Sawmill Workers Union, Local 2693, Thunder Bay; United Auto Workers Local 303, Scarborough; United Auto Workers Amalgamated Local 28, Toronto; 10th Federal Convention of the New Democratic Party, New Brunswick NDP; Vancouver-Little Mountain NDP; Marxist-Leninist Organization of Canada in Struggle; Law Union of Ontario 1979 Conference.

CANADA IAN ADAMS, journalist and author of "S—Portrait Of A Spy." ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University. R. ALDRICH, professor of music, University of Western Ontario. MARGARET ATWOOD, author. JOHN BACHER, St. Catharines. B. BANASCHEWSKI, professor of mathematics, McMaster University. RAYMOND BARBEAU, secrétaire de la fédération nationale des syndicats du bâtiment et du bois inc. DR. CAROLINE BAYARD, professor of French, McMaster University. J.-M. BEDARD, president of Regional Council No. 2, International Woodworkers of America; LOIS BEDARD, teacher. PIERRE BERTON, publicist, Kleinburg. DAWN BLACK, Coquitlam. MALCOLM BLINKOW, professor of anthropology, York University. JAMES R. BOLTON, professor of chemistry, University of Western Ontario. MARY BOYCE, lawyer. JOHN BOYD, Toronto. NEIL BOYD, professor of criminology, Simon Fraser University. ANDREW BREWIN, ex-NDP MP. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor. PIERRE CAPPIELO, Montreal. L. CARFAGNINI, Nova Scotia. D. CHAMPAGNE, Whitehorse. D. CHARLTON, Victoria. JEAN COMPTON, London. CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University. ALLAN CUNNINGHAM, professor of history, Simon Fraser University. A DALGLEISH, Vancouver. KENNETH DANSON, lawyer. BOB DAVIS of Mudpie. CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto. CHARLES DAVIS, professor of religion, Concordia University. S.C. de CASTELL, professor of education, Simon Fraser University. J.P. DENNY, professor of psychology, University of Western Ontario. DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist. MURRAY DOWSON, Toronto. T. PATRICK DOYLE, London. BILL DYER, lawyer, Cambridge. DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of The Far East Newsletter. JIM EYDT, Meyronne. NORMAN FELTES, professor of English, York University. RICHARD FIDLER, author of The RCMP, the real subversives. SAM FOX, co-director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Unions. EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG, professor of education, Dalhousie University. S.R. "SANDY" GAGE, coordinator of labour studies, McMaster University. O. GAGNON, Ottawa. H.J. GLASBEEK, Professor of law, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. JOHN GLENN, Brantford. DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor of philosophy, University of Toronto. ANDREW B. GOLLNER, professor of political science, Concordia University. CY GONICK of Canadian Dimension. ARTHUR GRAY, Coldwater. REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto. DONAT GRINGRAS, Sept. Isles. H. TED HALLIN, Elliott Lake. JOHN HARNEY, professor of Canadian Studies, York University. GRACE HARTMAN, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. JUDITH A. HELLMAN, professor of social science, York University. STEPHEN M. HELLMAN, professor of social science, York University. GARY I EWITT, professor of economics, Concordia University. ANTHONY HILTON, professor psychology, Concordia Uni ersity. HOWARD HUGG TT, Toronto. GERRY HUNNIU professor of ocial science, ork University. A.J. JA CZYK, Thornhill. C. JOHAN N, Toronto. E. JOHNS BRIAN D. ONES, Toro N. Hamilton. RICHAR OHNSTON, NDP MPP, Onti istory, Dalusie Unive JOANNE KATES, To G. GREG EALEY, professo D F. KETÉ, Toront PAT KERWIN, dire f politir ducation, CLC. Toronto. GENE K 'LVIA KITCHING, orse ENE KLODAV IIQUE LARRF. M IA, Canadian Union ic E ees, Winnipeg JOSEPH MARC ET LAL T. LEMON,

Svend Robinson, M.P., Burnaby,
Spokesperson for NDP on Justice and Solicitor-general

Justice and democracy has its price. The RCMP have unlimited federal funds at their disposal. Mr. Dowson's lawyers are volunteering their services. But transcripts will cost thousands of dollars. The RCMP can be beaten in the courts, but it will require all of us to unite to see the case through. I urge you to extend financial support to Mr. Dowson's efforts to obtain justice.

☐ Add my name to the list of supporters.
☐ Enclosed please find a contribution to the Fund to help pay the legal costs.

SIGNATURE .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Return this statement as soon as possible to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, Christine Judge, administrative secretary, Harry Paine [president of St. David's NDP], treasurer, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, M4K 1V5.

SEE OVER

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

July 14,1983

Mary Shull
Box 202- 14 Main Street N
Acton, Ont,

Dear Mary:

There are no published issuesof Forward between Nov/Dec1982 issue and the recent one-June-July 1983. If you examine the masthead you will see that they are numbered consecutively Vol8, No.3(48) - Vol 8, No.3 (49) It is true that I wrote 4 or 5 articles for planned issues hoping that I would inspire other contributors to meet the deadlines but to no effect. Despite declared intentions everyone proved too busy in their NDP and union ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ and Polish Solidarity commitments-- which is shown in part by the contents of this finally realized issue. It was we of course who prepared the Ontario NDP Left Caucus Manifesto, who are carrying the ball in the case against the RCMP, etc, etc.

This is not to excuse the situation. It is inexecusable that our press does not come out. I am only attempting to explain the situation. You are, I can assure you,going to get a copy of every issue of Forward that comes out. The money is not the issue--and as for me I do not need the encouragement of your letters. I share their protest.

Possibly until we can get our act together you might like to subscribe to the by far best international service called International Viewpoint published fortnightly in Europe. A subscription should go to Presse-Edition-Communication(PEC) Administration : 2 rue Richard-Lenoir, 93108 Montreuil, ~~xxxxx~~ France. Air mail for six months is 130 French Francs or $26 Canadian dollars

in solidarity

Ross Dowson

August 8, 1983
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, Ont. 961-4554

Roy Peltz-3434 Eglinton Ave E, #1607
Scarborough, Ont. M1J 2JL

Dear Roy;

Sorry about the delay in replying to your note. I have been out of town working on a fireplace at my sisters cottage. And in fact everyone who has been to the classes hs been in and out of town over the past month. I have been talking with various of them and we have come to an agreement that we will work out something right after the Labour Day weekend I have been seeing them at the various pro-Morgentaler and anti-Cruise actic --the August 6th one was quite a success. I hope you can get to the Aug 25 rally in Convocation Hall for E.P. Thompson. on August 25 at 8 p.m. I will be there and could pick up the book if you are done with it.

comradely

Ross Dowson

Sept 25, 1983
40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto, M4Y2K2

Ottawa
Dear Anne

Thanks for your note of the 19th and previously the change of address card. Cheryl phoned me a while back for yourphone number but I assume that you have long since given it to her.

This morning Zane will be coming by on his way to the meeting of the NDP anti-war committee meeting. He wants to pick up the copies of the elaborate leaflet that has just been put out by the October 22 committee. I picked up some copies at the DEC bookstore on Friday which he took to the social affair organized by the NDP women's committee. In my opinion it is a good leaflet which we can well participate in distributing. I am going to do 40 Homewood Ave. It will be helpfull for the NDP anti-war committee in preparing their paper. Big problems in that committee particularly with the absence of Gord D. However Zane is going to move in .

Too bad we did not have an opportunity to discuss Agenda. If the Left Caucus was flourishing or even had an immediate perspctive of flourishing we would be all for attempting to recusitae it. However from here that does not appear to be the situation. In Toronto the Left Caucus continues to percolate along with our encouragement. But in my opinion the past years work including the manifesto that it managed to put out demonstates that it hasx failed to establish any real base in the party--that in this sense it is premature and what you say about Agendasfate-to a considerable degree depending on our recusit ation -affirms this. It has not been able to win the support of any well-known, established personailties with substantial roots in the party to its side, aside from perhaps Simon Rosenblum away up in Suduby who has his own particular purposes and now that he is in the federal executive is being pulled away from even where he stood with us. Even in the anti-war committee work my impression is that we have only brough Muni along. While such a sectariab and ulta left group xxxx as those around Weisledder would normally be no trouble,in the present situation they are a trouble. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ They show not the slightest understanding on the present reality--they dont have the perspective of building it on a minuimum program but have a ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ grab line when it is apparent that there is little to grab and it becomes in reality a smash line in its result. From all reports that last steering committe meeting xx was a perody of sectarian antagonisms. It is not even clare that Wayne can play a positive role. The next few meetings will tell us

In my opinion the last thing we needs at this time is an Agenda which it is clear would fall almost entirely on our slender and weak shoulders. I think we should let it sleep until we can see the possibili ties of its reviving on its own--in the meantime Forward is all the more important.

--and even essential in the light of the breaks that we appear to be getting.

Tomorrow morning Harry and I will be going down to Cty-TV whose staff will be shooting a series of 5 vignettes on Dowson V The RCMP that will be carried just immediately after the news within a week or so. It is ironical that all the government's stalling which has done much to kill interest in the suit should stretch xx out to the very time when with difficulties they are trying to impose a repressive manadate for their new Security Service. It looks like the suit will take off again-particularly if the Supreme Court which suspended judgement back on June 9 now relaeses xxxxa judgement favorable to us. And so we must get to work on Forward and its very important tear sheets on the suit. I would have thought either I or Harry would have got an invite to the October 15 meeting

Good to see that a variety of opportunities in Ottawa are opening up. I hope this does not divert you too much from your school work. I see from a leaflet I picked up at DEC that there is a meeting on C-157 as City Hall Council chambers on C-157 on October 15 a7 2:30 without even a hint of its sponsors. But probably Harry knows. We are holind a nother meeting on top of last wederesday which didnt have time to take up the Left Caucus problems. The meeting will be this evening at the Tomczac's.

If you are able it would be good if you could come in for the Left Caucus forum on September 30--although it is an expensive thing moeny and timewise since you will be going to the camp the foilwoing weekend for Thanksgiving---or rather the next-- 8,9,10 -Oct

Fri Sept 30--Left Caucus forum--Saturday Day of Action for Choice. Sunday Bahro formerly of East Germany and who associates himself with the Green's now--- but as I say the next weekend is the Thanksgiving weekend at the Camp. It is hard to say right now when the next Forward group meeting will take place. We will discuss this tonight and I will let you know.

all the best

"oss

autiful
lue.
ew additions:
futons, curtains
ng services.
lection of duvets,
Amisco beds.
lues!

n shop
125 DAVENPORT ROAD
West of Bay Street 968-3725

n TORONTOS'
FUTON
tree
's Quay West
opping Level
ED TO
ERMINAL
362-1871

LETTERS

All out to world-wide protests

NOW:

It is unfortunate that Ben Schaub's article (NOW – Sept 22-28) on the hunger strike by Brian Burch and others against the peril of nuclear weapons testing failed to present the main view of the peace movement on such actions.

Schaub reports that "opponents of the fast said privately they feared the fast could be viewed as an act of martyrdom by extremists. Others were worried that the strike would be sensationalized by the media and would overshadow other efforts by the movement."

While one cannot help but be moved by the dramatic action of the hunger strikers, the action is so highly individualistic, capable of directly involving only a select few, that it must be considered as constituting a diversion from the task at hand. The forces against which the peace movement is attempting to mobilize have such powers in their hands and obviously are so contemptuous of the fate of all of humanity — not to speak of the deaths of a score of fasters — that it is essential to build a mass movement.

The actions must be able to involve as directly as possible everyone who wants to live. They must be in the most public way possible so that they attract ever increasing numbers of the population so that it becomes ever clearer that those responsible for the nuclear arms escalation are a tiny minority and that their authority and power can be stripped away from them. All out to the world wide protests on October 22!

That view, in reply to Burch, was given by E.P. Thompson to a mass rally only weeks ago at Convocation Hall.

Ross Dowson,
Toronto

Letters good public forum

NOW:

Thanks for NOW. It's positively the best current affairs magazine in Toronto. Your letters column provides a very interesting public forum, witness I.E. MacDonald's letter of rage over Strange Brew. Of the multitude of types 'pot-shot' at in the film, it seems that only feminists and mental patients take themselves seriously. Keep up the good work.

G. Burford,
Adelaide E.,
Toronto

Ashes to cigarette ads

NOW:

It was with distress I noted the presence of a cigarette ad. in the Sept. 8 issue of NOW. I may be mistaken, but I don't think you've ever run cigarette advertisements. I wish you would consider a policy of barring commercial advertisements for harmful products.

Please don't discount my complaint as the ravings of a fanatical puritan. This shit kills people, and I like them better alive.

There is an argument that readers are adults and can make the decision to smoke on their own. Absolutely! Make it on your own is the catch phrase used in the ad. Please don't let your newspaper persuade people into making a *bad* choice.

John Dixon,
Toronto, Ont.

gallery & design boutique

LIPSTICK

Mess Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
phone- 961-4554

October 5, 1983

Classic Books
98 Carrier Drive
Rexdale, Ont
M9W 5R1 - 675-1962

675-1962
phoned her Oct 13 - busy
she will phone back
I phoned Oct 14

Attention: Heddi Blanchard

Dear Ms Blanchard:

With regards to the paperback book I was talking to you aboutthis morning.

Keep her eye out

With the collapse of Beatty and Church shortly after their taking up this title I was so busy with the ongoing concerns dealt with in the book that that I was compelled to limit the time to its circulation. I have 1,600 copies as they came from the printer.

As history would have it the book is more timely than ever. The governments preparation of the mandate for the new security service has made it of first rate importance.

That is certainly the opinion of City TV here in Toronto. I have just finished acting myself, and my lawyer Harry Kopyto himself, in a program that will come on the TV screen commencing October 24

City TV will run a full page ad in Starweek of October 22 promoting its TV drama written by Paul Roberts and David Sob leman entitled accoring to the script RCMP on Trial but could just as easily be titled Dowson V the RCMP--the title of my book.

The drama is devoted entirely to my suit which you will note is more in the news than ever. The RCMP is now appealing Judge Zuker's ruling to the Ontario Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of Canada will be releasing its finding sometime around October 13 and all lawyers involved think that it will be favorable to me, and to the Canadian Civil Liberties Association which has firmly indentified itself with my appeal

cut out

The City TV drama will be presented in 5 or 6 minute capsules each day for the full week commencing October 24 right before or right after the news at 6 and 10 p.m. as part of the news hour. There is going to be a high powered build-up before and during the drama with interviews with June Callwood, Clayton Ruby, John Sewell, Mike Lyons, Stephen Lewis and many others.

I do not think that it would be possible to have more effective publicity in the Toronto area--and I am sure that City TV would be pleased to provide tie-in material particularly if we could get the book on display in the Toronto stores before-if possible- during and immediately after the drama.

I would get copies of the book into your hands immediately upon hearing from you. They come in cartons of 132 copies. I think they could be marked down from $3.95 to $1.95. But I am sure that we can work out a mutually satisfactory arrangement. I would be pleased to take returns as we have notyet decided whether to put out a considerably expanded new edition.

Because of the timing of the unique publicity I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible- so that if necessary I could make other arrangements

Thanks for you kind attention

sincerely

Ross Dowson

0014 for Left Caucus meeting

The power of positive thinking - by Ross Dowson St. George-Rosedale

It is not at all suprising that the Ontario Left Caucus, despite deeper and more rocted tendencies in other provincial sections the only organized Left Caucus, has difficulties in functioning. It is astonishing that an organized Left Caucus even exists in Ontario with the exhaustion of layer after layer of the party's activist core and the policy of depoliticization of the constituency associations of the party

Over the past several years the party has suffered a series of defeats- in Saskatchewan and in B.C. If the Left can claim that this is in part due to the party leadership's pusillanimous policies that minimize if not actually trivialize the significance of the party in the face of the growing crisis, increasing the ranks of working people who are standing on the sidelines as passive observers, the fact is they are defeats for the party as a whole- and yes - including its Left Caucus.

That this is so is demonstrated by a certain tendency in the Left Caucus to question in off the-cuff statements the viability of the NDP as a mass labour party formcation. That of course inevitably leads to the Left Caucus losing confidence in its perspective and of course in itself.

And it causes the Cucus to turn in on itself - to attribute its difficulties to the shortcoming of this or that element in the Caucus itself, to hyper criticism and to ideological hairsplitting

Of course our responses should be just the opposite. Instead of hairsplitting we should be emphasizing our common grounds of belief. We should be interveneing together abdd boldly where we see an opportunity as in the anti-nuclear arms struggle to further the correct policies of the party

To resist the depoliticalization of the constituency associations in Toronto as a brgining we should launch an ongoing public forum that will fill in the gap left by the constituency

associations,to provide a pole of attraction to working people who are certain to radicalize as the crisis deepens, and to provide a public face for the Left Caucus

Some of these views expressed at a recent Left Caucus meeting caused one of the platform speakers tO designate me at the Norman Vincent Peale of the Left Caucus. I plead guilty of thinking positivly of the NDP, based as it is on the organize labor movement as a movement of social and political change towards as socialist Canada.

AN APPEAL

When the fund to support the Dowson suit against RCMP "thought control" was initiated, we had no idea that six years later would find us still going strong. The Supreme Court of Canada has now ruled in our favour against Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry's stay of proceedings in the provincial court, and a Toronto Small Claims Court Justice has ruled that we may proceed against two RCMP officers who masterminded an Operation Checkmate campaign which breeched the right of freedom of assembly and association. And while it might have appeared that our limited efforts to block increasing encroachments on the right of legitimate dissent had been overwhelmed and lost in years of legal entanglements, the introduction of the National Security Bill (C-157) last May has made the six-year Socialist Rights Defense campaign immediately relevant. There is little doubt it played no small role in generating the barrage of public criticism the bill has provoked. Federal Solicitor-General Kaplan has been forced to let it die on the order paper.

Our first big efforts to raise funds to proceed into the costly arena of the courts met with a fine response from scores of union locals and cross-Canada labour councils, NDP constituency associations, faculty associations, and hundreds of individuals from every walk of life. With that aid, we placed an expensive ad in the Globe and Mail, published several information sheets which were distributed as widely as possible, and met the bare administrative costs of our lawyers who have so generously provided their services free, allowing us to litigate everywhere from the Small Claims Court right up to the United Nations.

While a small but significant number of contributions have continued to trickle in, they have not been anywhere near sufficient to cover our initiatives, and we have had to take out personal loans. Furthermore, we have not been able to pay costs which various courts levied against us, now totalling more than $4,000, which the Special Examiner of the Supreme Court is attempting to collect from my very limited personal resources.

As is apparent, the Dowson suit has reached a new and higher plane and it needs once again the help of those who have already come to its aid and the help of scores who have not yet taken the opportunity to do so. With your support, we may hope to develop the new level of interest into an even higher one in the struggle for a more just and free Canada.

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson

October 25, 1983

Make money orders and cheques payable to Socialist Rights Defense Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1V5.

For those who might have missed Toronto City-TV's six-part docu-drama titled RCMP on Trial centering on "one man's (Dowson's) struggle for justice", we hope to be able to loan a suitable video tape of it on request.

from Ross Dowson,#2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M4Y2K2
961-4544
October 31,1983

Anne Dowson
149 Daly Ave.,
Ottawa, Ont. KIN 6E8

Dear Anne;

I had hoped to answer your letter immediately however many little thi underway. First was a really big mailing for SRDF since it has been receivi such a big and impressive profile these days. Did anyone mention CITY TV's docu-drama displyed Monday through Friday inclusive-a different5 or 6 minuted episode each day. I thought that it was really impressive and on the basis of several comments have concluded that if you dont get some breaks from TV you are really ineffective or almmst non-existent. Overtwo or three days people in this apartment who I have never had an ocassion to nrely xxxx hear a response to my good morning stopped me to make various very favo comments. Harry was very impressive. They wrote the scrips and Harry and I who acted ourselves were able to make modeast changes to the extent we hac no compunction about anything we had to say. John Glenn told me he can get i Brantford so it is possible some Ottawaians saw it

I hope you got the Left Caucus mailing that Dave and I manged to put out. Needless to say I only xxxxxxx saw Wayne and Ross Hedders at the time of mailing....but I see I wasn't completely out of touch. A very bad scene. I am wondering if the Caucus can survive--which despite its feebleness is of critical importance. Clarified many matters at the last branch meeting and I am hoping we can have another before Friday nite. Has Ottawa given up and does that go for the Poundmaker contingent that had such excellent representation at the October 22 affair that I told Marie we should get a Poundmaker banner.

I went out this Sunday to give Lois a hand with a great many matter she had planned--planting barry bushes, maples,clearing out her freezable food stock, checking out after Bill M having stayed over following a Kingston union conference. I checked out also the cottages.

I really didn't examine the stove that yourfriend brought out to you but I had a good impression of it--that it was functional,all the more that he re-cemented the firebricks in. However if you are going to use the cabin late Fall,Winter and early spring you have to have good heating equipment, and if as I can imagine that even collectively you have no funds to buy a decent Franklin space heater I guess there is no alternative but for me to say go ahead and appropriate the heater down in the lodge .These heaters are inadequate and they have to be put in place properly. I didn't say anything at the time but I was appalled to see howcoral pink apparatus was bieng used--with the fuel bed precariously hoisted up into the flue. It is fortunate that there was no accident and that you were not all aphixiated--and at the high cost of funerals these days. I remember for yea about the many aphixiations in the pooerer districts of places like Ottawa and Indian reservations . That heater can only be temporary in my opinion

and must be operated, set-up, with the utmost caution. Since death is easy add life can be useful, I am against these makeshift operations. If you decide to take the stove from the lodge be sure that it is transported carefully and that the firebricks are not dislodged--

Rene's exact address is --instead of 2311 just 2211....40 Homewood Ave., #2211, Toronto M4Y 2K2. Alas while we have met several times I have not got to know him at all. Unfortunately I have little time to meet friends and comrades other than at meetings. My last little foray was to go up and see Commie Merton and an excallent left NDPer in Don Mills. After 1 and a half hour bus ride I got there-no answer to the apt buzzer--sneaked in with a pizza delivery and got no answer at the 15th floor door. A couple of hours later they phoned--she had stretched out for a nap and didn't hear the door and he had stepped out for something at the very appointed time. It is hard to be serious.

I dont want to interfere with the life style of the youth but I do not know a Peter Matilaker now or when the League was functioning and I do not see why anyone should expect to arrive in Ottawa and be put up at your home. As I see it a person has to have a lot of gall to expect it. In normal circulmstances I do not see why . There are hotels etc. There is only one person who comes into Toronto who I have anything to do with puting up and that is John Bacher. He has to come into Toronto a great deal in the course of his student activity and he already pays for a room in Hamilton . You can be sure I will never suggest to anyone that they go knocking on your door anticipating that it will be flung open to them. At best if it was some worthwhile person and they were a little hard up I might suggest that they phone or drop around to meet you and from there on it would be up to you.

I have been expecting to get the final tax bill on Pounmaker for sometim now. I have now written them for it. As soon as I get it I will call the meeting but of course it could not be November 5. We can take up the matter of the outhouse then--I think myself it should remain common property--that the people at your cabin should maintain it in the fine manner that I am accustomed to.

Here are a few numbers:

John Bacher- 64 N. Oval, Hamilton--5227450
Davis Tomcsak- 375 Montrose Ave., Toronto M6G 3H2
Harry Kopyto-privatphone- 781-0600
Bob Kasher - 550 Ontario St #504- 966 3221
Kimberley Wilde- 50 Thorncliffe Ave., Toronto M4K 1V5
Zne Boyd has just moved 4061307

Yes, I have known of this Center for Policy Alternatives group. You say they put out a magazine They make no mention of it and I have never core scross it. I would think that nearly all of them would have seen the manifest --it didn't it appear in the resolutions ookb for the Regina convention?

The 22nd Demo here was very impressive--they gtt the NDP arti-war rewslet ter out just in time and we did a good distribution. I thoughtbat it was very good. The big article in the GM tries to set up a situation that now the movement has no where to go--but it seems to me that it is still going up A terrible scandal in Grenada--not just Regan but the assassination of the Bishop leadership. We should hold a public enquiry and trial of the ultra-left culprits

comradely

Ross

Ross Dowson, # 2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

October 31, 1983

W.J. Walsh
Township of Tyendinaga
Marysville, Ont.
KoK 2NO

Dear Mr. Walsh

A Way back on March 15 I mailed the first instalment on the taxes for Assessment No. 25-138-01 - C P PT S 1/2 L 39 South of Salmon River. It wasfor the sum of $210.14. I put the papers aside fully intending to pay the other instalments in good time. However when it came to the approximate time for paying the next instalment I could not find them anywhere. And by now the total bill must be outstanding. Unfortunately I have still not come across the missing papers and have received for further notice from what I am sure is a very busy office down there

I wonder if you would be so good as to send me a record of the total amount now outstanding. I will remit payment by return mail. Sorry for any inconvenience that my inefficiency may have caused you and others.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

That is certainly an impressive cutting down to the Salmon River bridge on the Desoronto sideroad. It was a beautiful summer and the crops look good and we have another neighbour with the Tullochs

Ross Bowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2K2
November 29, 1983

Stephen Dankowich
c/o Apartado 315,
Valencia, Spain

Dear Stephen;

It was very good to receive your letter and the enclosed photo of the sculpture in Solidarnsc Platz. I often think of you and your "Grand Tour"--which I see is obviously proving to be of much value to your development ----but alas from this end,with some regrets, for there is really very little to move out with in the milieu which we are heir to in the Toronto area. You force a confession - a formal recogntion of the sad fact that I am doing almost nothing in defence of the 13 and the Polish political revolution which is fraught with such significance to the entire world revolution . Of course I wear my solidarnosc badge, but I was even prevented from displaying that to the tens of thousands who turned on the 6 part docu-drama put on by CITY-TV on Dowson vs the RCMP because the camera men said that the light was bouncing off it and mucking up their shots of me

We published and circulated a Solidarnosc peace appeal to the big meeting held for E.P. Thompson at Convocation hall--it appeared in a bulletin that theGervais Boulevard office put out and which purely accidently I Came across. George helped put that out. We carried the Solidarity Support trade union committee banner on the October 28 mass anti-Cruise missile demonstration right in front of the UE contingent much to the chagrin of some but to the satisfaction of others like the English doctor h ere taking a course at U of T, an admirer of Deutscher and Singer,who joined us. Paul pitched in on this. When we came to turn off College up University a couple of East Europen right wingers came out of a block of pro-Cruise elements who were posted there to scream against a Solidarnosc banner being in an anti-Cruise demo. But we are not doing what we should be doing. George who could play a key role is not really interested in working in the Polish milieu. Zane was unable to convince him to go the the annual conference of the Solidariy Support committee which was a flop. Zigmunt is a real disaster. Louis Lenkinsky used the fact of Z-'s writing a rotten column in the Sun to justify really doing nothing in the trade union movement when I came across him at the OFL convention. I went down to the OFL with a pile of Solidarity material but I had such trouble getting around the restrictions in order to get the Dowson material around that I decided not to jeopardizing that by demanding space for Solidarity. Zane is having trouble with his alcoholism and thevrelations of the four of us are to a large degree chance. For instance I only heard about a Solidarity class that Paul and George arranged through the Marxist Insttitute by chance and at the same time as it failed to attract sufficient people to carry it off. I wastoo tied up with a conference of Toronto supports of the OttawaCommittee for Labor Action conference to attend the annual Solidaruty Support conference on Nov 12 which was poorley attended and was generally directionless but which I gather questioned the spending of the funds we raised to send a coule of lawyers to attend the trials when they are announced. I will go to the December 6th executive meeting to see where things stand.

You will be pleased to hear that the splendid braod struggle of the
rkers against the Bennett government's austerity program was waged
he banner Operation Solidarity, with the word Solidarity appearing
ot obviously inspired by the Polish graphic, in red, eppearing every-
friend Stan Persky probably had something to do with this. He is
he weekly tabloid struike paper called Solidarity Times which
ng the struggle and which wil in all probability continue to

It is interesting that you came across the G & M edit on the Supreme Court ruling. It has heightened interest in the suit and has allowed us to take another foray into the union movement for support. But state officials are working hard to block us. After the ruling we went beforevthe same judge who had been ordered by McMurtry to stay proceedings. He held a closed hearing--barred the press but seated the representatives of the attorney-general's office. The key evidence we want to use is the testimony xnxx of the two RCMPers who handled Operation Checkmate sworn before the Krever and the McDonald Royal Commissions. The judge right away declared that he was unprepared to accept this as evidence before his court--he rejected it abd ordered Kopyto to supeona RCMPer Yaworski. And so he closed the affair down--postponing his little closed hearing for a cou le of more weeks--so they can mae the dish more peppery. At the Small Claims court representative of the federal cabinet instructed the jusde that he must refuse to let Kopyto question the same Yaorski and Inspector Chisholm on the grounds of national security ~~on~~ less. We have the goods, confessions from out of their own mouths but will we be able to deliver---we will see--after all we have only been at this for 6 years now. Yes I will give your regards to Buckbiner when I next see him, if we come together again. I do not know where his suit can go as there are no known culprits. Copeland is handling his suit and has now checked out of ourswhich has been joined by Charles Roach, a black lawyer who you have probably heard of. I met him when he was a studen when the Toronto police charged us togatehr with several others in the early anti-Vietnam war protests

Big developments in Germany. I would gather that almost the entire population sees itself as a sitting duck between the nuclear missiles of the Soviet bureaucrats and the US state department. This will furtehr alienate Roumania and when the Soviet bureaucrats place their missiles in Czcchosolvakia, Hungary and East Germany will hot things up there. Possibly that antinuclear arms movemement will open up the antibureaucratic struggle once again in the Soviet areas.

We havent had an opportunity here in America to measure the impact of the ABC's The Day After but you can be sure it was considerable. The panel after composed of such as Kissinger, Schwartz etc exposed them as hypocites and bombastic frauds---only Carl Sagan with his sugestions of unilaterialis could appear sensible to the largest audience ever. I think that the anti war movement will be moving to pick up the demand for a referendum on the Cruise here

But I must close off

with revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson,#2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2K2
Nov 29, 1983

Dick Prinsep,
1435 Haro Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Dick:

Here it is almost Christmas and your letter with a welcome enclosure is at hand. I should be working on Forward and the next tear sheet of the SRDF--but the ocassion demands this all too short ~~xmxmx~~ reply.

You are a way behind in my work biography. From the point of view of gainful occupation I am not doing anything at all...and havent since and even before the day I reached 65 years of age--September 4, 1982. I am back in the saddle working for the cause again but self-employed. It seems a long long time since I worked at Downsvie and then at the Geriatric Centre library. You must know that we had a bookstore on Church Street just south of Queen and before that on Gerrard at Bay.When we were faced with a 100 % increase in the rent and the place was already getting too small for John Darling's Action Print operation to share the space,we decided to close down the bookstore. I regret this very muchbecause it was by all counts the best bookstore in the city---my kind of bookstore--all the key labor and socialist books and pamphlets plus a good selection of paperbacks and pocketbooks on all other important area of human thought and creativity . Since we closed the bookstore down and I have had time to frequent other bookstores in the big city here I am only confirmed in my opinion about our deceased store. There isn't a bookstore that is worth a damn in Toronto. One of my regrets is that the ~~xxxxx~~factionalism in the revolutionary circles never really allowed the store to take off in the direction it was designed to .

I suppose you are aware that the RWL closed down its operation. Development Educational Center in the basement of Trinity Church is now the agent of Pathfinder, Pluto and Merlin. But they dont have much of a stock and I dont think they are real pushers. And there is a bookstore of a generally left character right adjourning them. They give me a 20% discount and I make a selection of key titles for promotion among our comrades and class participants. ...which reminds me I must get some more stock for Christmas presents I was kidding Art Gray who lives at 40 Homewood and comes up most eveningsto watch my black and white TV news service and extemporaneous comments that now thet the SWP-RWL has dumped Trotsky we should float a loan and buy out all of Pathfinders Trotsky stock.

One doesn't come across the RWL much these days. They don't play any role in the Ontario Left Caucus and we don't hear about them in any of the ridings. John Darling now has his print shop on Adelaide Street and together with the fact that he has now a union label and is so helpful to all custmomers he does a great deal of the printing of the left---of Caral, the various wormen's groups, NDPers etc. We get our paper set and laid out there. I was down there a week ago to

prepare some SRDF material for distribution to the Ontario Federation of Labour convention and who did I meet but Phil Courneyeur, Lynda Blackood and Frank Lento. Lento who worked with Dale Ritch in our York campus efforts now puts out a relatively new and apparently highly successful magazine called Our Times. Have you got it out there--it is circulated by Canadian Periodicals. He asked me to write something up on the RCMP suitx but I told him that I did not want to --that he should send one of his staff around to interview me which he has agreed to do. Lynda didn't have much to say but I gather that Denis Lomas is out in Vancouver. Phil made a declaration that he is no longerin the RWL. He appears to be active in the Latin ,merican support area. He is working for the Canadian Hearing Society on their computer prior to going down to live in Brazil. I dont meet anyone who is in the RWL anymore. A young women who tested my hearing at St Michael (she fixed it so she could take me) and who used to be in the LSO tells me that the Montreal operation despite its colonization is in shanbles. I know that they have closed down the Hamilton operation. It was good to see that at long last Socialist Voice finally identtffed with the Suit.

I thought that the first issue of the New International was astonishing. Dumpimg the theory of the permanent revolution when Cuba is taking the socialist path,and with Poland,the permanent, the political revolution in the workers states ix on the order of the day,seems incredible. I thought that Mandel deflated Jeuness and rather than wait out for his reply to the New International article by Barnes I gave a critical aavluation to our comrdeas last week. Do you get International Viewpoint ?

Following the finding of the Supreme Court we once against went to Judge Allen. He held a pre enquiry, closed to the press but open to McMurtry agent. When Harry came to present the key evidence against the RCMPer Yeworsky the jude refused to accept it and orderedYaworski to appear before him next week. in the continuation of the pre-enquiry--even though the testimony we wanted to use at this stage was sowrn before two royal commissions he wouldn't accept it. At the Small Claims court a couple of months ago when Harry tried to question Yaworski along certain lines a representative of the federal Justice Dept blockedhim in the name of national security. Charles Roach has now joined our team but had to excuze himself from the next hearing as he has been asked by radical American lawyers to join an enquiry they plan to open up in Grenada.

Is Solidarity Times going to continue coming out ? Do you know Persky. I thoughthis Solidariy Sourcebook is the best available on Poland --which under the impetus ot the Soviet Bureaucracy's planking nucleae weapons on the soil of those oppressed nations workers state should be spreading out

comradely greetings

Ross Dowson

Did you see the anti-war newsletter that we help put out here. The Eeft Caucus is going to be opening up and I see that one has appeared in Saskatchewan

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave,
Toronto, M4Y2K2

Sam Gample
Niagara Falls

Dear Sam:

It is a longtime now since we have exchangedwords in any way. Not that it is of any importance but I think you owe me a reply. As I recall I wrote you about any impressions that you might have of Spector and MacDonald --I am still thinking of printing a couple of select contributions that they made in The Worker and the Trotskyist press and of writing up some sort of vignettexx

But my real reason for writing you at this moment, not matter what else is to tell you of some interesting material that I have just been receiving and which I am sure you would also like to receive. Last March we subscribed to a "fortnightly review of news analysis published under the auspices of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International"in Europe. We never received anything until suddenly axfellow here is Toronto dropped into our mail box a run of some 15 issues. I contacted him and he brought some extra copies around which I have been showing various persons. He also brought around a copy of International Marxist Review....which is an English translation of the French Quatrieme Interantionale..issue number one. I have just spoken to him on the phone and he is not sure that another issue of this magazine has come out yet. But International Viewpoint is really first rate. He is going to send me a few back issues which I may well receive late this week and could send on to you.

I am sure that you will want to subscribe to it. There are fifteen issues so far received here. I would think that you might start with the October 18 issue no15 . The feature article is Chile, beginnings of political recomposition. There are three worthwhile articles on the Middle East, a good one on New Stage in Britain, another End of an Era in West Germany. Their coverage of Poland in previous issues has been excellent

Here is the necessary subscription info:
---please xx if possible pay in bank drafts or postal orders in Frenc francs--make out postal orders to PEC, CCP Account no: 2 32242 T Paris, France and mail to International Viewpoint, 2 rue Richard Lenoir, 93108 Montreuil, France. A six month subscription ixxx by air is 130 FF or 26 Canadian dollars.

In my opinion there has been a steady deteriroation of Intercontine tal Press. This fortnighlty revixiew is all that it should be.

I hope this note finds you in good health--

fraternally